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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAJ-01 DHA-02 /062 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4193
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5390

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, US, UR, GE
SUBJ: GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO SAKHAROV

1. AT FEBRUARY 23 SOVIET EMBASSY ARMY DAY RECEPTION, GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT INITIATED CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO SAKHAROV. GRUNERT SAID THEY WERE SHOCKED (ERSCHROCKEN) BY THE LETTER. HE IMPLIED THAT THE LETTER WAS NOT IN THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE OR IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR. IN RESPONSE CHARGE TOLD GRUNERT THE PRESIDENT CARTER BELIEVES STRONGLY IN HUMAN RIGHTS, THAT THE LETTER
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WAS TO SAKHAROV AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND THAT IT SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S OVERALL POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION.

2. CHARGE THEN SAID THAT SINCE THE LETTER DID NOT INVOLVE THE GDR, HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE APPROPRIATE FOR GRUNERT TO COMMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OF

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THANKS TO MR. HONECKER. GRUNERT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WAS A GOOD SIGN. HE WENT ON TO MAKE SPECIAL MENTION OF SECRETARY VANCE'S MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER WHICH, HE SAID, THE GDR HAD ASSESSED AS A POSITIVE SIGN FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE WOUND UP BY SUGGESTING THAT PERHAPS SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER COULD MEET AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE UNGA. CHARGE UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY THIS INTEREST TO WASHINGTON.

3. GRUNERT'S COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO SAKHAROV APPEAR TO FIT EAST GERMANS' CONCERNS IN THIS GENERAL AREA. AT A LUNCHEON LAST WEEK WITH THE INSPECTION TEAM, MFA AMERICAN DIVISION CHIEF GEYER RAISED THE QUESTION OF DISSIDENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND QUESTIONED WHAT US INTENTIONS WERE IN SUCH MATTERS. HE ADDED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD BEEN MAKING A NUMBER OF SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS CONTAINING PROMISES, AND THE GDR WAS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO ASSESS WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS POLICY FORMULATION AND WHICH AS MERELY POLITICAL RHETORIC.

4. WE HAVE THE INITIAL IMPRESSION THAT THESE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN REFLECT EAST GERMAN UNEASINESS THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECT OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MAY WELL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON US/SOVIET RELATIONS, WITH A FALLOUT ON US/GDR RELATIONS. AT THIS POINT, WE WOULD GUESS THAT THE EAST GERMANS WOULD NOT FIND SUCH A CONFIDENTIAL

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DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR INTEREST IN PURELY US/GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS.POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT CARTER\'S LETTER TO SAKHAROV
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, US, UR, GC, (CARTER, JIMMY), (SAKHAROV, ANDREI), (GRUNERT, HORST)
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